

Dear King County Residents:

It is with great pride that I am able to present to you the King County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. This publication will give you a summary of our activities and accomplishments for 2005 as well as important crime data and other related King County Sheriff's Office information for the past year.



After serving as the Interim Sheriff in 2005, I was elected and sworn into office in January of 2006. I have continued the implementation of the many programs we began in 2005. We devoted much of 2005 to examining the entire Sheriff's Office and how we do business, how we deliver our services to our customers, and what we need to do to improve our ability to address crime. I believe that on a daily basis, our organization should--and does--strive to improve the way we do our work. It is an ongoing process. Like any progressive department, we know that we can always do better!

Fighting and reducing crime is our top priority. It remains our focus and our first priority. As crime trends shift and move, it is important that we remain flexible and able to respond to those priorities that impact public safety and our quality of life in King County. The methamphetamine problem is a great example. While we have significantly reduced the number of illegal meth labs in the county, we are now faced with battling the emerging challenge of imported meth from Mexico and other states. Gang activity is also on the rise in the region after years of relative quiet. Cybercrime and internet-based threats to our children's safety are issues that I am committed to addressing. We must remain proactive and vigilant to ensure that King County remains one of the safest places to live in this country.

I hope that you will find this publication informative and useful. For even more information, please visit our website at www.metrokc.gov/sheriff. I also invite you to stop by one of our precinct offices, visit a school resource officer at a high school, or drop into a neighborhood storefront or contract city police department to ask questions or simply to say "hello."

Interacting with the people we serve is critical as we progress into this new century. More than ever, we have to strengthen our relationships and partnerships with the citizens and communities we serve. Public safety in this day and age requires the public as a partner. By working together we *can* make our county safer.

You have my pledge and promise as your Sheriff, that your safety and quality of life will always remain my number one priority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Rahr". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Susan L. Rahr
Sheriff

OUR GOALS

Promote safe and healthy communities.

Build trust and support within the community groups, government, and profession that we serve.

Provide responsible and value-added law enforcement services.

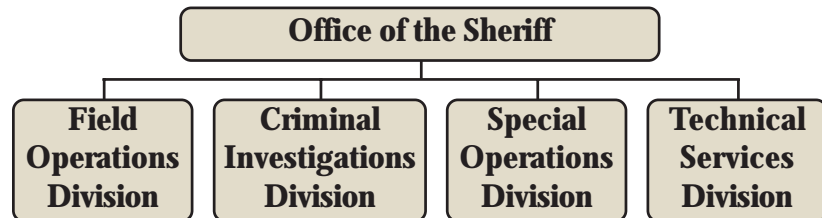
Promote a highly skilled workforce.

ABOUT

Ensuring the safety of people in King County is our top priority. The King County Sheriff's Office aims to do this in a respectful manner based on our core values of *leadership, integrity, service, and teamwork*. We are the local law enforcement agency for unincorporated areas, and provide regional services throughout the county. In addition, we are proud to partner with 12 cities and multiple other contract entities to serve their residents and customers with tailored local police services.

Office of the Sheriff

The Office of the Sheriff includes the sheriff, her chief of staff, a media relations officer, the Internal Investigations Unit, and the Legal Unit. This group and the division chiefs provide leadership, policy, and strategic direction for the members and units of the Sheriff's Office. Our many units are organized into four divisions to best serve the needs of our communities.



Field Operations Division

The Field Operations Division manages the core functions of patrol, precinct-based detectives, crime prevention, storefronts, and reserve deputies. The subdivision into four precincts allows for better community-based responses because the precinct commanders can use local data to direct law enforcement services. Day-to-day management of contract city police and school resource officers are the responsibility of this division.



Robin Fenton
Division Chief

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division conducts complicated investigations related to homicide, domestic violence, computer fraud, forgery, custodial interference, sexual assault and more. The expertise and professionalism of these detectives help ensure effective prosecution of criminals and clearance of innocent persons. CID also provides criminal intelligence, addresses child support enforcement issues, and manages court security.



Rich Krogh
Division Chief

Special Operations Division



Scott Somers
Division Chief

The Special Operations Division provides specialized services such as K-9, air support, marine patrol, hazardous devices disposal, tactical training in firearms and less-lethal weapons, Tac-30 (SWAT), hostage negotiations, dignitary protection, and search and rescue. The division also has taken the lead in planning for homeland security concerns and manages the contract police service to King County Metro Transit and the King County International Airport.

Staffing

Sworn Officers	718.00
Professional Staff	365.50

Technical Services Division



Denise Turner
Division Chief

The Technical Services Division provides the bulk of support services that are vital to efficient operations. Some of the employees in this division directly serve the public by offering 9-1-1 call receiving and dispatch, civil process, gun permits, and fingerprinting. Others provide business services such as technology development, records, contracting, personnel, payroll, training, finance, and regional fingerprint identification.

Population Served

Contract Cities	225,312
Unincorporated	364,498
Total	589,810
Regional Services	1.8 million

King County Sheriff's Office Jurisdiction

Precinct Five
(Shoreline)

Precinct Four
(includes Burien & SeaTac)

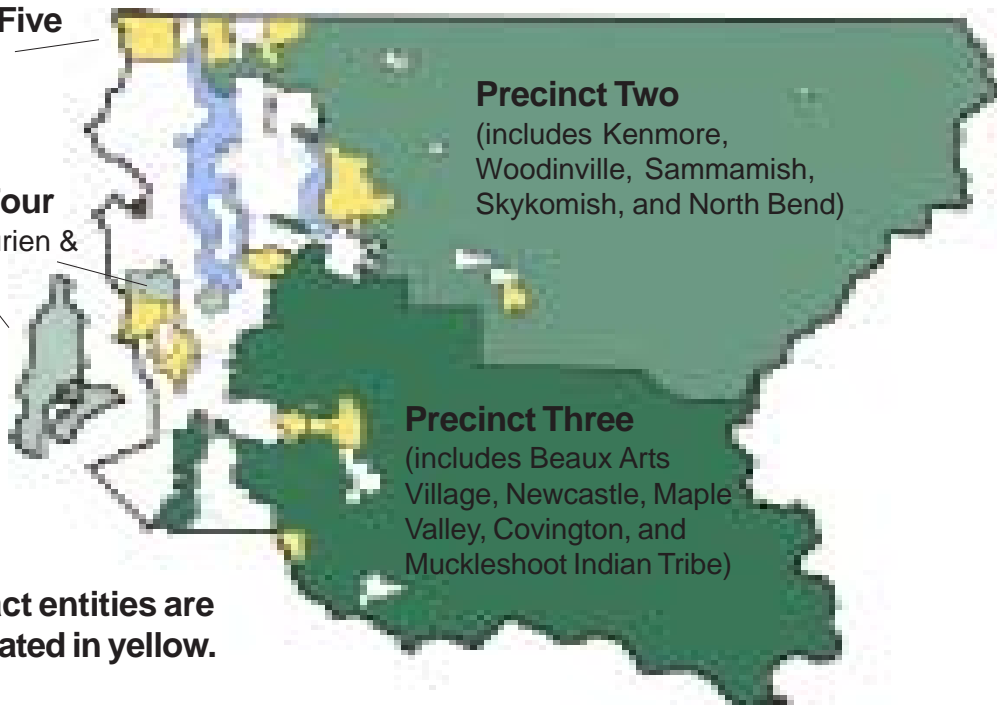
Precinct Two

(includes Kenmore, Woodinville, Sammamish, Skykomish, and North Bend)

Precinct Three

(includes Beaux Arts Village, Newcastle, Maple Valley, Covington, and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe)

Contract entities are designated in yellow.



We...

Promote safe and healthy communities.

Combating Drugs and Crime

Our focus on drug crimes reaches from neighborhood efforts to regional task forces. The crimes our detectives investigated in 2005 resulted in hundreds of arrests and seizures of drugs, cash, and property worth more than half a million dollars.

In Precinct Four, we continued to participate with the Seattle Police Department in the “Weed

and Seed” Program, which is helping to concentrate and coordinate law enforcement efforts in the White Center area.

This strategy brings local, state, and federal resources together under the shared goal of “weeding” out violent crime while “seeding” in social and economic revitalization programs. In addition to arrests and seizures, our deputies worked with the business community to resolve crime problems.

Protecting Transit Riders

In 2005, Metro Transit Police added five deputies and one sergeant to form the Bicycle Emphasis & Enforcement Squad (BEES). The BEES focus on providing high-visibility and enhanced security for Metro Transit customers and employees.

The BEES respond to transit-related police calls for service, take enforcement action on criminal activities seen at transit centers,



The Bicycle Emphasis and Enforcement Squad (BEES) officers patrol Metro transit centers, shelters, bus zones, and buses.

shelters, bus zones and buses, and provide security at chronic problem sites for Metro.

Cleaning Aurora Avenue

Shoreline added three new motels to its Hotel/Motel Trespass Program in 2005. The program deters crime along Aurora Avenue North by preventing those involved in prostitution, drug

**Our Communications
Center dispatched
more than
124,000
calls for service.**

**Our average
response time
to the highest
priority calls:
4 minutes.**

trafficking, street robbery, and related street crimes from using the motels/hotels in this area as a base of operation.

Under this program, when a person is removed from one motel within that area, the same person also will be banned for one year from all other trespass program motels within that area. This program is coordinated with the Seattle Police Department's program, allowing information to be shared between agencies and the motels up and down the Aurora corridor.

Preparing for Critical and Terrorist Incidents

In 2005, the Special Operations Division made significant steps toward readiness for critical, terrorist, and large-scale incidents. The division also



An evidence specialist tests drug samples to determine the presence of illegal chemicals.

developed a Critical Incident Management Plan for the Sheriff's Office that can be adapted to a variety of incidents and used as an outline to institute an incident command structure.

Enhancing Tac-30 (SWAT) Abilities

The Sheriff's Office used

Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative funds to purchase "the BEAR," a sophisticated armored vehicle that helps us to safely deploy tactical personnel.

The vehicle provides ballistic protection as well as radiation and explosive gas detection, allowing us to safely remove civilians from dangerous situations. For example, we can now evacuate a school by backing the BEAR to a door or window and emptying nearly an entire classroom of children at a time.

The team also assessed protection plans for buffer zones around critical infrastructure facilities in our area. Buffer areas allow us to stop people and vehicles before they reach facilities.

Based on the evaluations,



A handler/canine team from the Special Operations Division's Patrol Support Section tries to pick up a drug scent during training.



KCSO deputies fastrope from Guardian One.

we were awarded equipment from the federal government to improve our efforts and abilities in this area.

SWAT also developed a procedure to transport tactical personnel by helicopter to a mission site, eliminating drive-time delays. Tactical personnel now know how to “fastrope,” a method of deploying a person from a helicopter that is as high as 90 feet above the ground.

Today, we can place a tactical unit anywhere in western Washington in less than 90 minutes.

Improving Bomb Disposal Response Times

The Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) can now respond more quickly, thanks to a new vehicle that houses and transports the bomb robot. The vehicle also acts as a command post from which

the robot operator can control the robot. Through a federal grant, the BDU also purchased eight bomb suits for our bomb technicians.

Responding to Increased Security Concerns

In response to heightened security concerns caused by the two waves of London bombings in July 2005, transit agencies across the nation were raised to an orange alert level.

Metro Transit Police and our SWAT team increased police staffing throughout the transit system, with particular focus in the downtown Seattle transit tunnel and at transit centers throughout King County. Most of the cost for these extra hours was covered by a Homeland Security grant.

Solving Crimes with Crime Analysis

In 2005, the Crime Analysis Unit helped deputies to identify criminally active top offenders, detect crime patterns and problem locations, and solve crimes. Crime analysts provided a wide variety of data, analytical, and mapping skills to nearly every part of the department.

Crime analysts created numerous data and crime maps in support

of the “Weed & Seed” Program and hosted W.I.R.E., a crime analysis web site used by many agencies in the greater Puget Sound region.

Analysts participated in an arson task force, a serial robbery group, and a task force dedicated to stopping a specific Ford truck theft problem.

Protecting from the Air

In 2005, the Air Support Unit extended its services to all King County law enforcement agencies at no charge for “in progress” calls.

In December 2005, the Guardian One crew assisted Renton Police officers in a 10-hour standoff with an armed gunman. The crew used the on-board forward looking infrared radiometer (FLIR) equipment to keep the



A KCSO patrol deputy prepares a traffic violation citation.

suspect in view when nobody else could see him, and led Renton's SWAT team to the suspect.

With the help of a federal grant, we added digital microwave video downlink systems to two helicopters. Now, pilots can send video images from the helicopter to posts on the ground.

Protecting on the Water

During 2005, the KCSO Marine Unit improved its water rescue and fire suppression capabilities through the grant-funded purchase of a 38-foot boat. Some of our deputies also completed the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's advanced training course and earned their Working Master Diver Certificates from the NOAA Dive Center.

For its efforts in 2005, the unit was awarded the Washington State Education Merit Award for its water

safety and education program, making this the second year in a row the unit received this award.

Investigating Crimes

In 2005, our Major Crimes detectives investigated 18 homicides, plus two other outside agency officer-involved fatalities. The unit also assisted in the coordination of the third annual Violent Crimes Conference in October 2005, which provided 28 hours of training to 200 officers.

Protecting Domestic Violence Victims from Firearms Crimes

In 2005, we continued to implement the domestic violence firearms forfeiture program. The program works with courts and prosecutors to order domestic violence suspects to surrender their weapons pending the conclusion of the case. The Domestic Violence Intervention Unit



A KCSO deputy in the contract city of Burien takes a call for service.

also helped several other agencies to implement similar programs.

Combating ID Theft and Meth Use

Identity theft is considered to be the fastest growing crime, not only in King County but across the United States. One of the main drivers of identity theft is the use of methamphetamine. People using this drug often turn to identity theft and the accompanying crimes of counterfeiting and forgery to facilitate their drug use.

In 2005, we continued our partnerships with federal and local law enforcement agencies to address identity theft, counterfeiting and forgery on a regional basis.



Members of the Air Support and K-9 Units stand by Guardian One, which is equipped with a forwarding looking infrared radiometer (FLIR). FLIR uses heat differences to locate people and objects.

Seizures and Warrant Sweep Highlights

Who: KCSO and Federal Drug Enforcement Administration

Mission: Targeting marijuana and cocaine dealers in South King County

Result: Seized \$700,000 in cash, 150 lbs. of marijuana, 32 lbs. of cocaine, vehicles and weapons, and made nine arrests.

Who: KCSO Canine Unit

Mission: Tracking missions for 2005

Result: Tracked 358 missions, made 18 felony arrests, and seized \$838,288 in cash, 280 lbs. of marijuana, eight lbs. of meth, and 40 lbs. of cocaine.

Who: KCSO Criminal Warrants Unit and U.S. Marshals

Mission: "Project Falcon"

Result: Made joint arrests of 68 people including a local gang member, cleared 87 felony warrants, and seized 522 marijuana plants and \$1.5 million worth of street marijuana.

Who: KCSO Special Support Enforcement Unit (SSEU), King County Prosecutor's Office, and Washington State Division of Child Support

Mission: Warrant sweep in June 2005

Result: Cleared 95 warrants with 68 arrests and collected \$13,978 in unpaid child support.

Through our efforts, we identified and arrested many individuals and groups committing these crimes. Their subsequent convictions have already affected the rates of fraud and meth crime in our communities.



A Live Scan technician captures fingerprints for rapid transmission and identification.

In 2005, our Fraud and Computer Investigations Unit successfully finished a three-year, inter-agency bank and consumer fraud and identification theft case, which resulted in 10 individuals receiving a total of 64 years in prison. For this case, our unit worked with the Lynnwood, Seattle, and Mercer Island Police Departments, and the United States Secret Service.

Expanding Fingerprint Services

The King County Regional Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Program continued its development of Live Scan services, a method of capturing high-quality fingerprints electronically and transmitting them for rapid identification.

During the year, we expanded Live Scan services to new areas with the installation of 10 additional

units, bringing the total number of Live Scan capture units throughout the county to 34. Live Scan enables correct identification of people and provides a means of updating criminal records in real time.

Improving Patrol with Wireless Technology

In November 2005, the Sheriff's Office began implementing a grant-funded wireless computer program.

By the first quarter of 2006, all patrol officers could use their laptops to access license information, crime databases, warrants, mug shots, as well as the databases of other agencies—right from patrol vehicles.

The system means more time on the street and better crime fighting in unincorporated areas and our contract cities.



A deputy uses his wireless technology to access information while in the field.

Providing Weapons Safety Training

The Sheriff's Office uses the Taser as one of our less-lethal weapons. Tasers use electric probes to temporarily paralyze subjects. Deputies carrying a Taser are required to take eight hours of basic training with the Advanced Training Unit and four hours of additional annual recertification.

In 2005, we issued or replaced nearly 100 Tasers throughout the department and provided numerous basic and refresher courses on the use of Tasers.

AFIS Success Stories

Finding an Arson Suspect

In March of 2005, a King County Sheriff's Office latent print examiner was assigned to an arson case in which some crime scene fingerprints had been recovered. The arson was one in a series for which there were no known suspects. An initial search of the AFIS database yielded no results. About three weeks later, a KCSO deputy issued a citation to a suspect for possession of stolen property. Before releasing the individual, the deputy used Live Scan to submit fingerprints electronically for identification. The individual's prints "hit" one of the unidentified arson prints in the database. After verifying the match, the latent examiner notified both the deputy and the detective working the arson case. The suspect was detained for questioning and, in the face of the evidence against him, admitted to the crime.

Identifying an Individual on the Terrorist Watch List

A woman was brought into Kirkland's Regional AFIS Live Scan suburban location to be fingerprinted at the Live Scan Capture Station. As she was fingerprinted, the record was electronically transmitted to the King County Regional AFIS, Washington State Patrol, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Her fingerprints matched those of a woman on the Homeland Security "Terrorist Watch List," which indicated her as a known member of Al Queda. Both the FBI and Interpol wanted more information about this woman's movements in our county.

Helping to Stop Home Invasion Robberies

Detectives across King County investigated a series of home-invasion robberies in which families were bound and held at gunpoint. Latent prints taken from the crime scenes were searched against the King County Regional AFIS, and five suspects were linked to five of the 10 terrifying crimes. All suspects were charged and convicted, with four of the suspects' sentences ranging from 20 to 65 years.

Crime in KCSO's jurisdiction has been flat or on a slight downward trend for the last several years.

Violent crime continued a downward trend in 2005, with only aggravated assaults showing a slight increase.

While the long-term trend for property crimes continues to be flat or slightly downward, the last four years have shown moderate increases in some property crimes such as vehicle theft and car prowls. It is too soon to tell if this reflects a trend or simply a variation in the crime rate.

The Sheriff's Office participated in a number of regional initiatives aimed at curbing the increase in auto theft. This included work with the King County Prosecutors Office to help implement the Car Theft Initiative to make auto theft a higher priority for the criminal justice system.

CRIME TRENDS 2005

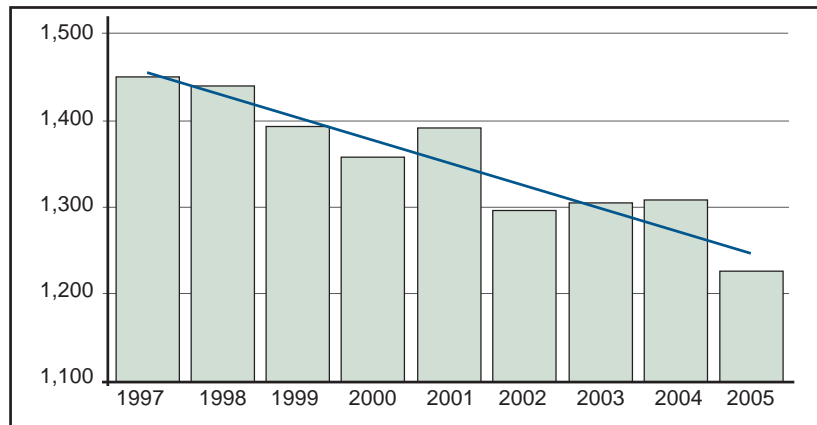
Crime Statistics (including unincorporated and contract cities)

Offense	2004	2005	Change
Part I Offenses	20,980	21,589	2.9%
Part II Offenses*	20,537	21,313	3.8%
Breakdown of Part I Offenses			
Criminal Homicide	23	18	-21.7%
Forcible Rape, incl. attempts	243	229	-5.8%
Robbery	409	328	-19.8%
Aggravated Assault	631	648	2.7%
Burglary (Commercial)	1,308	1,445	10.5%
Burglary (Residential)	3,161	3,102	-1.9%
Larceny (Over \$250)	4,851	5,203	7.3%
Larceny (Under \$250)	6,415	5,895	-8.1%
Vehicle Theft	3,624	4,410	21.7%
Arson	315	311	-1.3%

* All offenses that are not listed as Part I Offenses.

Part I Violent Crimes

Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault



Activity Summary

Category	2004	2005	Change
Adult Charges/Arrests	11,378	10,968	-3.6%
Juvenile Charges/Arrests	2,108	2,107	0.0%
Traffic Enforcement	49,810	44,305	-11.1%
Officers Assaulted	42	54	28.6%
Gang Related Incidents	194	199	2.6%
Dom. Violence Related Incidents	4,694	4,462	-4.9%
Hate Crimes/Malicious Harassment Reports	29	43	48.3%

We...

**Build trust and support
within the community groups, government,
and profession that we serve.**

Building Relationships with At-Risk Youth

The Police Activities League (PAL), formed in 1915 but brought to the local area in 2004, is a youth crime prevention program that partners police officers with at-risk youth and the community through various activities. Our 2005 PAL activities included a volley-



ball league in the Fairwood area, after-school tutoring in the West Hill/Skyway area, homework clubs, and a homeland security club at Evergreen High School. The volleyball league provided 61 boys age 10 to 17 with instruction and play on Friday nights. The annual Shop with a Cop Program

offered 250 low-income kids the opportunity to spend \$50 each with a deputy in December. As always, PAL activities were free to all.

Governance Issues in Unincorporated Areas

Staff members from various precincts worked with county

agencies, cities, consultants, and community groups to examine governance options in the North Highline, East Renton, Klahanie, and Fairwood areas. These staff, along with Sheriff's Office commanders and analysts, attended community meetings to explain current police service levels and answer



Precinct Two again hosted a Citizens Academy, co-sponsored by the precinct and the cities of Kenmore, Shoreline, and Woodinville. Twenty-six citizens from the north King County area participated, receiving information from representatives throughout the Sheriff's Office.

Precinct Four, including the Cities of Burien and SeaTac, conducted two Police Citizen Academy classes in 2005. In this class, community members received 13 weeks of law enforcement training. The precinct also partnered with the Fire Department to conduct two eight-week Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) classes.



Sheriff Rahr talks with leaders from the local Unincorporated Area Councils at the 2005 forum.

public questions. In Fairwood, we provided information to studies that assessed the annexation and incorporation options.

Reaching Out to Residents and Businesses

Our precincts continued to foster relationships with neighboring police agencies, and improved community networking by participating in local meetings of volunteer groups. Staff also met with community members at monthly safety meetings and worked with local human services professionals. In addition, the Fairwood Community Storefront relocated to a new facility in August 2005. Our storefronts provide residents with a central contact point for citizens when they have questions about police services. Many citizens go to a storefront to submit

“walk-in” police reports, ask for advice about neighborhood problems, find out about crime prevention, and make traffic or speeding complaints.

Continuing our Contract Law Enforcement

The Sheriff’s Office continued to provide contract law enforcement services to 12 cities, King County Metro Transit, King County International Airport, the Muckleshoot Tribe, multiple schools, and other entities. As always, contracts allowed

jurisdictions to offer customized local services at a reasonable cost, while also enjoying the benefits of a full-service agency. We met with several city councils in 2005 and, upon request, provided information about our services to cities that currently have stand-alone police agencies.

Preparing for Disasters and Terrorist Acts

In partnership with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the Department of Homeland Security and other public and private sector partners, we participated in a high-level threat and vulnerability assessment. The assessment identified how technology can help improve our ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters and acts of terrorism. The Sheriff’s Office is working with the Department of Homeland Security to bring technologies into the area to improve interoperable communications, intelli-

CONGRATULATIONS!

Deputy of the Year - MPO Kevin Compton, Precinct 2

Detective of the Year - Detective Andreas Kaltsounis, Precinct 2

Employee of the Year - Jim Hilmar, Research & Planning

Volunteer of the Year - Bob Thompson, Precinct 2

Reserve Deputy of the Year - Deputy Robert R. Smith, Precinct 4

Explorer of the Year - Explorer Major Alexa Moss, Precinct 3

We...

Provide *responsible* and *value-added* law enforcement services.

Planning for the Future

In the coming years, the Sheriff's Office will face a broad set of challenges including increased annexation activity, mandates for new services, changing crime trends and the need for collaborative efforts in public safety.

In 2005, together with a team of consultants, we completed numerous projects related to our strategic planning efforts. We refined our vision, mission, goals, and strategies, identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) on our horizon, and developed a data model to help assess impacts of future restructuring. We conducted a survey of our peer agencies and proposed a wide variety of performance measures that we will refine in the coming years.

In 2006, the Sheriff's Office and the King County Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will begin

development of an Operational Master Plan (OMP) for presentation to the King County council in 2007. The OMP will be a 10-year plan setting forth how the King County Sheriff's Office will operate now and in the future.

This effort will involve Sheriff's Office and OMB representatives, in addition to a steering committee of representatives from the following agencies: the King County Prosecutor's Office, the Sheriff's Office contract



AFIS technicians dust weapon parts for fingerprints.

cities, the King County Council, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.

Deploying RAIN for Regional Information Sharing

The Regional Automated Information Network (RAIN) is a secure Internet pathway for law enforcement agencies in King County to share criminal activity information with one another. RAIN makes crime data nearly as mobile as those who practice criminal activity. RAIN is an initiative of the King County Police Chiefs Association and is sponsored and managed by the King County Sheriff's Office.

In 2005, with the help of a \$1.1 million Department of Homeland Security grant, RAIN was made accessible to 18 of the 39 municipalities in King County (increased from 3 in 2004). Deployment to remaining agencies will conclude in the spring of



Motorcycle patrols are used in both unincorporated and contract cities.

2006, at which time biometric (facial recognition) support and analytical tools will be added to RAIN, enabling detectives to mine the information for patterns and associations helpful in solving crimes.

includes federal data sources in addition to municipal sources. The Sheriff's Office is a full partner in LInX, along with a broad network of police agencies in Washington.

Tracking Jail Bookings with JILS

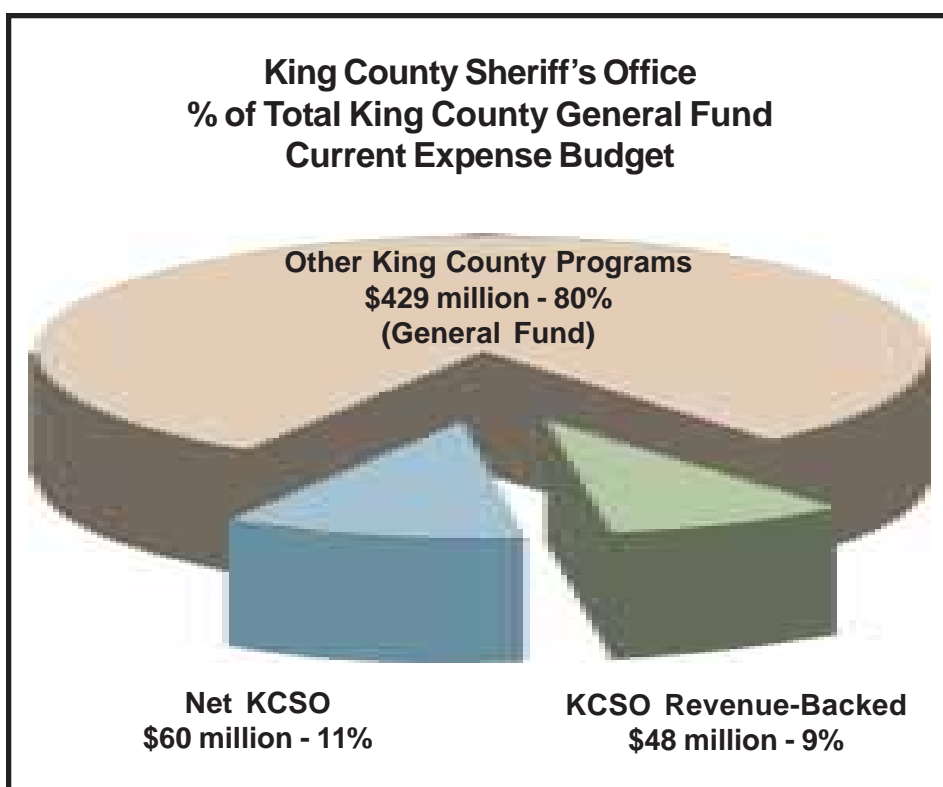
The Jail Inmate Lookup Service (JILS), a pilot project for national information sharing, tracks jail bookings within King County. JILS is available to both the public and law enforcement.

Law enforcement officers are able to access information such as physical descriptions and more. All KCSO employees have access to JILS today. Residents can access the public system through the King County website, www.metrokc.gov.

Rolling LInX Out to KCSO

The LInX system is a federal information sharing project, similar in principle with RAIN, but utilizing different approaches and serving different communities. LInX uses a centralized data warehouse model at the Seattle FBI office where participating agencies copy their information.

In November 2005, we began our Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX) training program with 60 people. LInX also



In 2005, the Sheriff's Office returned \$48 million (44% of our budget) to the County General Fund through contracts, grants, and other revenue streams. The net cost of the agency to the county is \$60 million.

We...

Promote a highly-skilled workforce.

Identification Technicians Trained to Process Crime Scenes

The Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Section expanded its crime scene processing capabilities by training five fingerprint identification technicians in crime scene processing. Technicians are now fully trained to process stolen vehicles without direct supervision. They have already responded to scenes at marijuana “grow” operations and are assisting latent print examiners at other scenes when possible.

Creating New Training Opportunities with T⁵

In 2005, the Sheriff’s Office created a daily online training tool for deputies. This program, called “T⁵”, consists of 5- to 7-minute modules that were distributed to patrol laptop computers in the field and all department personnel in 2006. This training program

meets the new state law requiring 24 hours of training for each commissioned person in 2006.

Once fully implemented, deputies will be required to log on and complete a daily, scenario-based training module including a brief quiz, followed by an expanded review of the correct answer. More than 100 different modules have been developed on a variety of topics specifically focusing on high-risk and low-frequency subjects, legal

updates, officer safety, manual and policy changes, and other information important to the complex duties of our deputies.

Providing Training in the Communications Center

This year, Communications Center supervisors were coached by a consultant in a series of team-building workshops designed to support mutual accountability and help supervisors effectively tackle issues. Along with a department sergeant, Communications



A Communications Center operator dispatches a call for assistance.



A member of the Marine Unit talks with local children about sea life and water safety.

Center personnel developed a curriculum and policy called “Building a Respectful Workplace” for all employees to follow.

Call receivers in the Communications Center also gained additional verbal and priority handling skills in a training session called “Managing Multiple Priorities and Realities,” during which receivers learned how to more effectively communicate with citizens who call the center.

Getting On Board with ICS and NIMS

In compliance with the Department of Homeland Security’s National Response Plan, all commissioned KCSO personnel have completed the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management

System (NIMS) courses, which have been implemented in local, state and federal emergency management organizations around the country.

ICS trains us to effectively manage large- and small-scale incidents. NIMS takes ICS one step farther, ensuring that all emergency response organizations across the country have similar definitions, capabilities, and names for critical incident response structures, so response plans are understandably between very different agencies.

Gaining Hazardous Materials Skills

Through the use of Homeland Security grant funds, we trained all



Staff at the Property Management Unit process and store the department's evidence.

sergeants and deputies to safely deal with hazardous materials. Responders now carry the equipment needed to help evacuate civilians from a hazmat area.



The Major Accident Response and Reconstruction (MARR) Unit assesses the scene of a vehicle accident.